THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

OF THE

HENSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MARCH, 1915.

F. CROWE AND SONS, POTTERGATE STREET, NORWICH.


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FOR THE YEAR 1914

IN presenting the Annual Report for the Year 1914, we are able to note the following:—

1. An increased death rate.

2. An increased birth rate.

3. Infectious diseases same as last year.

The nett death rate of persons belonging to the district was 13·02, and of the total deaths 124 were registered in the district, of which 1 death was a non-resident, and 11 deaths of residents were registered outside the district, making the total number of deaths belonging to the district 134, of which 68 deaths occurred in persons at or over the age of 65 years, 7 deaths were due to Phthisis, against 4 of last year, and 19 to Cancer against 13 of last year.

The birth rate was 20·9 against 20·22 of the preceding year, and of the 215 births 122 were males and 93 females, and of all of these 11 were illegitimate, viz., 4 males and 7 females.

The death rate of infants under 1 year was 60·46 per 1000 births registered against 57·69 of last year. The number of deaths of infants was 13 of which 8 were premature births.

There were 61 cases of infectious disease notified, being the same number as the preceding year, and of these there were 28 of Diphtheria, 22 of Scarlet Fever, 2 of Erysipelas, 1 Poliomyelitis, 4 Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 other forms of Tuberculosis.

Diphtheria.—28 cases were notified occurring in 10 parishes with a mortality of 1.

Seven of these occurred in the Parish of Hethersett during the month of January, all of a mild type, amongst the children attending the National School, this appeared the source of infection, as 4 cases swabbed in school by the School Medical Officer were all reported "Positive," at the time of writing this report, 12 months afterwards, one of the same children is still reported infectious and is probably a "Carrier Case."

Seven occurred in Mulbarton all amongst children during month of February, and here the spread of infection was undoubtedly the school, 1 case occurred in Swainsthorpe connected with the Mulbarton cases.

Two in Wreningham during the month of April, here 1 child died, here the infection was apparently brought by a child who had recently been discharged from the Gt. Yarmouth Isolation Hospital after having the disease and was staying in the house.

One case occurred in Keswick.

Ten cases occurred amongst children attending the Poringland School during November and December, 4 swabs were here taken by the School Medical Officer, and all reported "Positive." These cases occurred in 5 parishes, viz., Arminghall (2), Framingham Pigot (2), Framingham Earl (2), Poringland (3), Stoke Holy Cross (1).

Scarlet Fever.—Twenty-two cases were notified occurring in 9 parishes.

Four in Hethersett (3 in 1 house)—the infection in this case being brought from Norwich where one of the patients was lodging.

Four in Shotesham, all of a mild type occurring among school children.

Three in Framingham Pigot, 2 of these being secondary cases.

Three in Little Melton, all in 1 house.

Three in Colney, all in one house.

Two in East Carleton, the infection in these cases being contracted in Norwich.

One in Poringland.

One in Trowse Newton.

One in Bramerton.

Erysipelas.—Two cases were notified, 1 in the Parish of Braconash and 1 in Newton Flotman.

Poliomyelitis.—One case notified occurring in the Parish of Poringland during the month of September, the patient being 3 years old, and the source of infection was supposed to be due to bites from a species of biting fly (Stomoxys Calcitrans), as several specimens of this fly were caught in the house by Dr. Nash, the County Medical Officer, who has made a special study of this disease.

Tuberculosis.—Eight cases were notified, 4 being Pulmonary, and 4 other forms, these occurred in 7 parishes, viz., Braconash (1), Flordon (2), Framingham Earl (1), Intwood (1), Saxlingham Thorpe (1), Swardeston (1), Ketteringham (1). In all cases of infectious disease notified, inspection was made of the premises, and any insanitary causes where found were remedied, leaflets, giving instructions and precautions to be taken, were distributed and disinfectants supplied.

On 1st April, 1914, the disease known as Ophthalmia Neonatorum became a notifiable disease.

Isolation Hospital.—There is none in the district at present, all infectious cases being treated in their homes. During the latter part of the year, proposals were made to combine this district with the Depwade, Forehoe, and Loddon districts for the purposes of providing a Joint Isolation Hospital, these proposals have been favourably received by the districts concerned, but owing to the War it is decided to let the matter stand in abeyance for 12 months.

Disinfection.—Forty-nine premises were disinfected during the year, these include 20 houses after Diphtheria, 17 after Scarlet Fever, 7 after Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2 after Erysipelas, 1 after Poliomyelitis, 1 after Cancer, and 1 other, viz., sterilization of 2 wards in readiness to receive wounded soldiers.

175 visits were made to infected houses for the purposes of making enquiries, giving instructions and supplying disinfectants.

The sum of £2 was paid as compensation for destruction of infected bedding.

Schools.—Measles was very prevalent amongst school children during the early part of the year, and the following 5 schools were closed on that account, viz., East Carleton, Ketteringham, Poringland (Infants), Stoke Holy Cross and Trowse Newton. All cases of infectious disease notified by the Head Teachers, have been investigated.

Water Supply.—The water supply of the district is the same as pevious years.

Nine samples of water were taken and analysed by the Public Analyst, of these 1 sample was excellent, 4 good, 3 passable, 1 bad.

Seven wells were cleansed and 8 pumps repaired, 1 new well was sunk to provide 2 existing cottages with water, 3 old cottages had a fresh supply laid on and 2 wells were closed.

Two new wells were sunk to provide 4 new cottages with water, and 11 new cottages had the water laid on, and 1 new house obtained supply from an existing source.

Six water certificates were granted under Section 6, Public Health Water Act, 1878, with respect to 16 new houses.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Same as previous reports. During the year 16 new drains were laid, 13 to existing houses and 3 to farm premises. 10 sink wastes were disconnected from drains, 10 drains were taken up, 19 drains were repaired, trapped, etc., 3 new cesspools were provided, 9 cesspools cleansed, and 6 foul ditches. Out of 16 new houses completed during the year, 14 are satisfactorily drained, 7 being provided with water closets.

Closet Accommodation.—The closet accommodation for the district is on the whole sufficient and satisfactory. 7 new pail closets, 2 new privies were provided to existing houses, 27 privies were repaired and 5 pulled down, 11 privies were converted to the pail system. Of the 16 new houses erected, 7 houses have water closets (8 in number) and 9 have pail closets.

Scavenging.—With exception of the Parish of Trowse Newton —where the scavenging is done satisfactorily by private enterprise —there is no systematic scavenging done in the district, it being done by the occupiers.

Housing :—

The number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Sec. 17 of the Act, 1909	340
The number of dwelling-houses which, on inspection, were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to making closing orders ...	2
The number of closing orders made	2
The number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders ...	64
The number of dwelling-houses which after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for habitation ...	0

The general character of the defects found to exist were :— defective roofs (9), damp walls (11), damp floors (17), want of

eaves, gutters and downspouts (9), rotten floor boards (5), dangerous and rotten stairs (3), lack of light and ventilation (4), overcrowding (5), besides defective and insanitary drains and privies.

A house to house inspection was carried out in the parishes of Bramerton, Kirby Bedon, Rockland St. Mary, Stoke Holy Cross and Surlingham.

During the year, the District Council approached each parish regarding its own housing accommodation. From replies received from the various Parish Meetings held to consider the question, it was found that 75 additional cottages were asked for, and, taking all the replies into consideration, the District Council estimated that at least 100 more cottages were wanted in the district, and decided to notify the Local Governent Board to that effect.

Reports were received from all Parish Councils in the district, except Caistor St. Edmunds, as follows :—Arminghall and Bixley, a few more cottages required ; Caistor St. Edmunds, no reply ; Framingham Earl, Framingham Pigot, Holverstone and Kirby Bedon, none required ; Poringland, some—number not known ; Rockland St. Mary, 6 ; Saxlingham Nethergate, none ; Saxlingham Thorpe, 4 ; Shotesham All Saints and Shotesham St. Mary, none ; Stoke Holy Cross, 8 ; Surlingham, Whitlingham, Braconash and Colney, none ; Trowse Newton, outsiders would take them ; East Carleton, 5 ; Cringleford, some ; Dunston, none ; Flordon, 6 ; Hethel, Intwood and Keswick, none ; Hethersett, 12 ; Kettering-ham, 4 ; Markshall, 2 ; Melton Parva, 6 ; Melton Magna, none ; Mulbarton, 6 ; Newton Flotman, 4 ; Swainsthorpe, 6 ; Swardeston, 6 ; Wreningham, none.

Thus making 75 dwellings actually asked for, but taking into consideration replies from several of the parishes where no number was stated, it appears that 100 cottages are required.

New Buildings.—16 new cottages were completed during the year, as follows :- -6 cottages, Whitlingham ; 2 cottages, Ketter-ingham ; 4 houses, Hethersett (3 being cottages) ; 2 cottages, Mulbarton ; 2 cottages, Kirby Bedon.

Six water certificates were granted in respect to the above houses. 1 house at Poringland and 1 house at Mulbarton are in course of erection.

Cowsheds and Dairies.—I have paid the dairies, cowsheds and milkshops, registered under the Order, 1885, periodical inspections. We are pleased to report that, with very few exceptions, they are kept in a satisfactory manner. Any defects found were principally the negligence of tenants to keep cowsheds properly limewashed. 6 fresh dairies and cowsheds were registered under the Order during the year. 4 cowsheds were limewashed on notice, 1 cowshed lighted and ventilated, 1 dairy floor repaired and 1 dairy drained.

Workshops.—72 workshops were on the register at end of the year, being an increase of 2, 60 inspections were made to same, 3 defects found, 3 remedied, all being want of limewashing—included in these is 1 defect notified by H.M. Inspector.

Workshops on register ...	72	
Bakehouses	...	8
Blacksmiths	...	22
Laundries	...	10
Plumbers	...	2
Cycle Works... ...	..	4
Dressmakers ...	...	1
Brickworks	...	2
Wheelwrights and Carpenters	...	15
Harness Makers ...	...	5
Boot and Shoe repairers ...	...	2
Agricultural Implement Works	...	1
		72

Slaughter Houses.—19 inspections were made to slaughter houses and knackers. 1 slaughter house floor was found defective and this is now being remedied.

Norwich Sewage Farm and Refuse Heaps.—5 visits were made to the Sewage Farm at Whitlingham and the refuse heaps situated near the river. Complaints from smell and flies have not been so numerous as in the past few years, but a few were received during the summer months. The refuse heaps on the marshes have been well attended to and the fresh refuse covered up daily. The refuse first deposited has settled down to about one-half its original height, and when visited in June it was found covered over with a strong growth of rye grass and thistles. Visiting the

Sewage Farm late on in the year, the same was found in a greatly improved condition, being then much cleaner than it has ever been since the new tanks were constructed and the sludge nuisance commenced. The factory for dealing with the sludge is now working night and day, and is at present dealing with the whole of the sludge, thus minimising the sludge nuisance from the open trenches which are now being gradually filled in, and if no breakdown in the factory occurs the probability is no fresh trenches will be opened.

NUISANCES.—The number of nuisances detected were 238, of which 220 have been remedied and the others are receiving attention.

NOTICES.—226 written notices were served of which 209 were preliminary notices and 17 statutory notices.

INSPECTIONS.—Some 2,000 inspections were made for the purposes of inspecting houses, workshops, cowsheds, dairies, slaughter houses, detecting nuisances and making enquiries into cases of infectious disease, and to visiting works done to abate nuisances.

SOLDIERS.—None are quartered in our Sanitary District up to the present.

The Medical Officer of Health cannot conclude this report without calling attention to the excellent services rendered the District Council and himself by the steady and intelligent work of the Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF REPORT, YEAR 1914.

Population, Census 1911	10,285
Area of District in acres	41,428
Density	1 person to 4 acres
Number of inhabited houses (estimated) ...	2,480
Number of houses inspected	588
Number inspected under Act 1909 ...	340
Number of houses closed	2
Number of schools inspected	6

Number of slaughter-houses inspected ...	10
Number of bake-houses inspected ...	8
Number of workshops inspected ...	60
Number of lodging-houses inspected ...	nil
Number of cowsheds and dairies inspected ..	65
Filthy houses cleansed (Sec. 46, P.H.A. 1875)	nil
Houses disinfected	49
Number of infectious disease notified ...	61
Visits made to infected houses	175
Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	£2
Number of inspections to new houses in course of erection	70
Number of houses placed in habitable repair	64
Number of new houses completed ...	16
Number of houses still in course of erection	2
Number of water certificates granted ...	6
Number of water certificates deferred ...	nil
Number of samples of water analysed by Public Analyst	9
Number of wells closed	2
Number of wells cleansed	7
Number of new wells sunk to existing houses	1
Number of existing houses and premises provided with new drains	16
Number of houses having drains repaired, etc.	19
Houses connected with sewers	nil
Number of foul ditches cleansed ...	6
Number of cesspools cleansed	9
Number of cesspools sunk to existing property	3
Number of new pail closets provided to existing houses	7
Number of new privies provided to existing houses	2
Number of privies converted into pail system	11
Number of W.Cs., privies, etc., repaired ...	27

Number of privies abolished	5
Number of cases of over-crowding abated ...	5
Number of roofs repaired	9
Number of damp walls remedied ...	11
Number of damp floors taken up and re-laid on cement concrete	17
Number of rotten floors re-laid	5
Number of houses provided with eaves, troughing and down spouts	9
Number of windows provided or repaired ...	4
Number of animals improperly kept, removed	3
Number of nuisances detected	238
Number of nuisances abated	220
Total written notices served	226
Preliminary notices	209
Statutory notices	17

S. H. BURTON, M.B. (Lond). M.O.H.

J. B. PANKS, C.E., M.R.San.I., A.I.S.E.

Sanitary Inspector,

12th Feb., 1915. Henstead Rural District Council.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during the Year 1914 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths of non-residents not registered in the District.	Transferable Deaths of residents not registered in the District.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
								Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number	Rate.			Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
1909	10385	215	20.75	111	10.7	...	...	17	79		
1910	10385	214	20.6	97	9.36	...	...	11	51.4		
1911	10285	239	23.23	115	11.8	...	...	19	79.5	121	11.76
1912	10285	182	17.69	126	12.25	...	...	11	60.44	131	12.74
1913	10285	208	20.22	110	10.69	1	8	12	57.69	117	11.37
1914	10285	215	20 9	124	12.06	1	11	13	60.46	134	13 02

Area of District ... 41,428 Acres. Total Population at all ages ... 10,285.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1914.

Notifiable Disease.	All Ages.	1—5 Years.	5—15 Years.	15—25 Years.	25—45 Years.	Total Cases Notified in each Locality.	
						Henstead	Humble-yard.
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	28	5	19	4	—	10	18
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Scarlet Fever	22	4	13	2	3	10	12
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	—	1	1	2	1	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	4	—	1	2	1	1	3
Total	61	10	34	9	8	23	38

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1914.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.								
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Measles	1		1						
Whooping Cough	1			1					
Diphtheria and Croup	1			1					
Influenza	1				1				
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	7				1	1	5		
Tuberculous Meningitis	1				1				
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1				1				
Cancer, malignant disease	19						2	6	11
Organic Heart Disease	14							4	10
Bronchitis	6								6
Pneumonia	4	1	1	1			1		
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	5				1			1	3
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	1								1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1						1		
Nephritis and Bright's Disease .	1							1	
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1						1		
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	11	11							
Violent Deaths (excluding suicides) ...	2				1			1	
Suicide	2							2	
Other Defined Diseases	51	1				1	8	6	35
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	3							1	2
All causes	134	13	2	3	6	2	18	22	68

Certified—131. Uncertified—3.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1914

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	3—6 Months.	6—9 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Premature Birth	3	1	2	2	8	—	—	8
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	3
Totals	5	1	3	2	11	1	1	13

215 Nett Births in the year { Legitimate - - 204
Illegitimate - - 11